Reporter of Decisions Decision No. Mem 10-71 Docket No. Cum-09-580

G. ROBERT SMITH et al.

v.

STEWART TITLE GUARANTY CO.

Submitted on Briefs May 27, 2010 Decided June 1, 2010

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., ALEXANDER, LEVY, MEAD, GORMAN, and JABAR, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

G. Robert Smith and Catherine A. Smith (jointly, the Smiths) appeal from a summary judgment entered in the Superior Court (Cumberland County, *Cole, J.*) in favor of Stewart Title Guaranty Company. The Smiths' complaint alleged that Stewart breached its title insurance contract with the Smiths by failing to defend them in a lawsuit involving their property. Contrary to the Smiths' contentions, (1) the plain language of Exceptions 3 and 11 in the policy exclude the Smiths' claim from coverage, *see Am. Prot. Ins. Co. v. Acadia Ins. Co.*, 2003 ME 6, ¶ 11, 814 A.2d 989, 993 (explaining that an unambiguous contract must be interpreted according to the "plain meaning of the language used" (quotation marks omitted)); (2) only the policy and underlying complaint may be consulted when determining whether there is a duty to defend, *see York Ins. Group of Me. v. Lambert*, 1999 ME 173, ¶¶ 4-5, 740 A.2d 984, 985; and (3) Stewart's duty to defend the Smiths could be determined without the consideration of extrinsic evidence. Because Stewart did not have a duty to defend the Smiths, it was not responsible for their reasonable attorney fees and costs pursuant to 24-A M.R.S. § 2436-B (2009).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Attorney for G. Robert Smith and Catherine A. Smith:

James D. Poliquin, Esq. Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC 415 Congress Street PO Box 4600 Portland, Maine 04112-4600

Attorneys for Stewart Title Guaranty Company:

Erica M. Johanson, Esq. Zachary I. Greenfield, Esq. Monaghan Leahy, LLP 95 Exchange Street PO Box 7046 Portland, Maine 04112-7046

Cumberland County Superior Court docket number CV-2009-42 FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY